

FOLKWAYS

pounds and are forced to walk with a slow, dragging step which is considered aristocratic. Iron is rare and worth more than silver.¹ Livingstone says that in Balonda poorer people imitate the step of those who carry big weights of ornament, although they are wearing but a few ounces.² Some women of the Dinka carry fifty pounds of iron. The rings on legs and arms clank like the fetters of slaves. The men wear massive ivory rings on the upper arm. The rich cover the whole arm. The men also wear leather bracelets and necklaces.³ In Behar, Hindostan, the women wear brass rings on their legs. "One of these is heavy, nearly a foot broad, and serrated all around the edges. It can only be put on the legs by a blacksmith, who fits it on the legs of the women with his hammer, while they writhe upon the ground in pain." Women of the milkman caste wear bangles of bell metal, often up to the elbow. "The greater the number of bangles, the more beautiful the wearer is considered."⁴ The satirist could easily show that all these details are shown now in our fashions.

189. Ideals of beauty. In Melanesia a girdle ten centimeters wide is worn, drawn as tight as possible. One cut from the body of a man twenty-seven years old measured only sixty-five centimeters.⁵ The women of the Barito valley wear the *sarong* around the thighs so tight that it restricts the steps and produces a mincing gait which they think beautiful.⁶ The Rukuyenn of Guiana have an ideal of female beauty which is marked by a large abdomen. They wind the abdomen with many girdles to make it appear large. "The women of the Payaguas, in Paraguay, from youth up, elongate the breasts, and they continue this

after they are mothers by means of bandages."⁷
 The southern
 Arabs drop hot grease from a candle on a bride's
 fingers, and
 then plaster the fingers with henna. Then the
 grease is taken
 off, and light-colored spots (if possible, regular)
 are left where
 it was, while the rest of the skin is colored brown
 by the henna.

¹ Büttner, *Das Hinterland von Walfischbai*, 235. ⁵ Finsch,
Samoafahrten, 90.

² *South Africa*, I, 298.
 221.

⁶ Schwaner, *Borneo*, I,

⁸ Schweinfurth, *Heart of Afr.* > I, 153. ⁷ *^akz^Volkerkunde*,
 II, 570.

* JASB, III, 370.